

SNAPS

Christian youth killed

UNB, Jamalpur

A Christian youth was stabbed to death by miscreants at village Sanakoir Purbopara in Sarisabari upazila on Wednesday night.

Police said miscreants, numbering 8-10, repeatedly stabbed Ridoy Roy, 32, of village Pingokathi in Gouranadi upazila of Barisal, on his return home after showing movies through projectors at about 1pm. He reportedly involved in preaching Christianity by showing movies.

Girl kidnapped, gang-raped

UNB, Sirajganj

A girl was kidnapped and then gang-raped by a group of youths at Shimlar Char in Royganj upazila on Tuesday night.

Villagers said the youths of village Chunapara kidnapped the girl while she was going to her relative's house at night. They took her to Shimlar char and raped her there overnight one after another.

Local people found her in an unconscious state the following morning and informed police. She was admitted to local hospital.

Workshop on environment

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A three-day workshop on environment for journalists and primary school teachers began at local Nursing Institute on Thursday.

Centre for Sustainable Development (CFSD) organised the workshop in cooperation with local press club. Advocate Harun Al Rashid, MP inaugurated the workshop.

Criminal, associate arrested

UNB, Bhola

An alleged criminal and one of his associates were arrested along with arms from Doulatkhan upazila on Wednesday.

Police raided the house of Basir, 40, and arrested him and his associate A Mannan, 35 along with a pipe-gun. Bashir was an accused in a number of cases, including murder.

Death toll in nor'westers in B'baria, Moulvibazar 14

Death toll in nor'westers in two districts rose to 14.

Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent reports: In Brahmanbaria nor'wester claimed 13 lives and damaged 5,000 houses in Sarail, Ashugonj, Akhaura and Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila.

However, 10 deaths were confirmed officially.

The bodies were identified as Chan Banu, 65, Kalilur Rahman, 12, Manowara, 25, Bachchu Mia, 50, Sishu Mia, 50, Anglo Begum, 50, Ayesa Begum, Mafia, Farjan, 12, Husna, and an unnamed two-year-old baby.

Relief and Disaster Management Minister Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Local member of parliament (MP) Advocate Harun al Rashid, MP Muft Fzul Haq Amini and district administrations visited the spot.

90 thousand taka and 30 MT of wheat have been allotted for the people of the victim areas.

Our Moulvibazar Correspondent reports: One person was killed and 30 others injured while several hundred houses were damaged in a severe

cyclonic storm that swept over three upazilas of Moulvibazar district recently.

Sobita Bauri, 46, a tea garden worker of Chatlapur Tea Estate in Kamalgonj upazila died when a jackfruit tree fell upon her during the nor'wester, according to the family source. The storm lashed some villages including different tea gardens, reserve forests and Shamsernagar Airport on April 13. Ill-fated Sabita was sleeping in her house when the incident occurred. Her husband Sanat Kumber Bauri was also injured. At least 50 houses were damaged and a few hundred trees of tea gardens and Magurchhera reserve forest were uprooted.

In another nor'wester, more than 250 pucca and thatched houses of Mohammedpur, Ranguria and Dasrai villages in Giasnagar Union Parishad (UP) of Sadar upazila were damaged. The nor'wester lashed three villages in the night of April 17. At least 25 people were injured in the cyclonic storm. Injured Samir Bibi and her child were transferred to Sylhet Osmani Medical

College Hospital (SOMCH) with critical injuries, while Shefa Begum and Amirul Haque were now under treatment at Sadar hospital, according to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital sources. Other injured persons were given first aid from different health complexes and clinics.

A few hundred trees and several electric poles were uprooted in these areas.

Another nor'wester swept over villages Kadipur, Bade Monsur, Joypasa and Kulaura in Kulaura upazila which caused heavy damage of houses and trees.

IRRI and boro crops on a vast tract of land were damaged.

Our Jhenidah Correspondent says: At least 15 persons were injured in a cyclonic storm on Monday at villages Baghdadanga, Hudapara, Kanchanpur, Khosalpur, Solaimanpu, Napa and Ghospur of Moheshpur upazila. One hundred dwelling houses were damaged.

Two Ro-Ro ferries of R&H Deptt commissioned

UNB, Patuakhali

Two newly built Ro-Ro ferries of Roads and Highways (R&H) Department were commissioned at the ferryghat here on Thursday.

Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda commissioned the ferries built at Ananda Dockyard near Meghna Bridge at Sonargaon in

Narayanganj at a cost of Tk 1.78 crore.

Built with financial assistance from DANIDA, each of the utility type-2 ferries will be able to carry 150 passengers, four buses or trucks and two small vehicles.

The ferries were constructed under a project taken to renovate and then privatise eight important ferries in Patuakhali and Barguna.

Workshop on Development Journalism

Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) organised a five-day training workshop on Development Journalism in Mymensingh in association with Mymensingh Press Club from April 16 to 20, says a press release.

Nineteen journalists from different national and local dailies participated in the training. The resource persons were: ZAM Khairuzzaman of The Daily Star, Mir Aftab Uddin Ahmed of The Daily Ittefaq, Saleem Samad of The Bangladesh Observer, Asiuzzaman of The Daily Independent, Khairul Bashar of Bhorer Kagoj, Ali Ar Raji of the Department of Journalism, Chittagong University and Sazzaqd Hossain of BCDJC.

The certificate awarding ceremony was presided over by KR Islam, Vice President of Mymensingh Press Club, while Prof Mustafizur Rahman, Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Agriculture University was present as the chief guest.



A banana garden in Sal forest area under Aronkhola Range in Madhupur, Tangail. Cultivation of banana is harmful to environment as well as bio-diversity.

Rapist gets life term

UNB, Rajbari

A court here has convicted a youth and sentenced him to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a rape case.

The court also fined convict Manwar Hossain Malik of village Kalukhali in Pangsha upazila, Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer six months more RI.

Manwar picked up a teenage daughter of his neighbour and raped her in a nearby bush on March 13, 2001.

6.29 MTs of boro output target fixed

UNB, Bogra

Over 1.84 lakh hectares of land in Bogra have been brought under boro cultivation this season with an output target of 6.29 metric tons (MTs).

Farmers of Bogra are going to harvest a good boro crop due to favourable weather, absence of natural calamities and easy availability of fertilisers and diesel, according to local Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

Fund shortage hampers work on Gopalganj District Jail project

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Construction work of Gopalganj District Jail remained incomplete even after 10 years of time schedule.

Fund shortage was hampering the work of the jail.

Work on the perimeter wall and earth filling work inside the boundary wall was going on in full swing.

Accommodation capacity of the sub-jail was 38. Out of them 36 were for male prisoners and the remaining two for female prisoners.

The sub-jailor was performing his duties in a tinshed room.

There was no prison van at the sub-jail.

There was no scope of extension of the sub-jail in the present place. All the available spaces around the jail were already occupied by government officers.

The sufferings of inmates of Gopalganj Sub-jail worsened during the rainy season.

After a heavy shower, water got accumulated in the jail compound and

remained stagnant for a long time. Very often rain and flood entered into the prisoners' cells creating much suffering to inmates.

The sub-jail was first constructed in 1921, according to Public Works Department (PWD) records.

Because of space problems handicrafts or other work programmes could not be introduced for the prisoners who suffered from rigorous imprisonment (RI).

The executive engineer of PWD, Gopalganj told The Daily Star that Gopalganj District Jail started functioning 10 years ago. But work on the district jail was delayed due to want of fund. He further said to this correspondent that the work would not be completed as per time schedule.

A site was selected at Goshcherchar in Gopalganj Municipality area for construction of Gopalganj District Jail, according to official sources. Out of total Tk 739.91 crore of the project, an amount of Tk 161 crore was spent. At present there was no found for continuation of the project work.

Tk 1.8 lakh distributed for goat rearing

UNB, Bogra

Eight rural entrepreneurs of Gabtoli and Shibganj upazilas have received Tk 1.8 lakh from a government-sponsored micro-credit project.

The borrowers have invested the money in their eight goat farms, officials said. There are 91 goats in the farms in the two upazilas.

Thirty sewing machines were distributed among 30 distressed people here recently.

Rotary Club of Bogra and New Town, a local organisation, distributed the sewing machines among poor people.

BNP leader Tarique Rahman was present at the programme.

Earlier, poor people received training on sewing. National Women's Organisation arranged the training programme.

Five women held in Sirajganj for non-payment of BRAC loan

UNB, Sirajganj

Five women were arrested from village Shajahanpur in Ullahpara upazila on Thursday on charge of non-payment of loan they took from Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), a leading non-governmental organisation (NGO).

The arrested were Morjina Khatun, 38, Golesan, 40, Sulekha Khatun, 41, Hanufa Begum 43 and Amina Khatun, 37.

Some 67 women of a cooperative society of the village took loan from the local BRAC office five years back.

The NGO authorities filed a case against them on February 28 for their failure to repay the loan in due time.

But the women claimed that they repaid the loan soon after the case was filed. Sixty two other women went into hiding for fear of arrest.